

Message Text

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ORIGIN NASA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-05 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 CIAE-00

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P R 132357Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: TSPA:OCLR

SUBJECT:NASA AIRCRAFT CLEARANCE FOR PROJECT PORCUPINE

REFS: (A) STATE 21328; (B) STATE 31098; (C) ATHENS 1081;

(D) ATHENS 1292

1. NASA NOT IN POSITION TO CHANGE DATES OF PROPOSED PROJECT. CONDITIONS OF EVENING TWILIGHT, ITS LENGTH AND POSITION OF SUN DICTATE SOUNDING ROCKET LAUNCHINGS DURING EQUINOX PERIOD. ALSO IN ORDER TO FOLLOW VAPOR TRAIL OF BARIUM RELEASE, SKY CANNOT BE TOO BRIGHT AND THEREFORE LAUNCHINGS MUST NOT BE AT TIME OF FULL MOON.

2. IN VIEW REF D, ALTERNATIVE SUPPORT PLANS BEING DEVELOPED.

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ATHENS, HOWEVER, REMAINS PREFERRED LOCATION FOR STAGING

SINCE AIRCRAFT RANGE VERY LIMITED AND OBSERVATIONS MUST BE ALONG MAGNETIC LINE. EVEN IF STAGED ELSEWHERE, NASA WOULD WITH TO OBTAIN CLEARANCE FOR OVERFLIGHT OF WESTERN GREECE OR AT VERY LEAST BE ABLE TO APPROACH FAIRLY CLOSELY GREEK COAST LINE.

3. STAGING FROM ATHENS WOULD ALSO SIMPLIFY PROBLEMS REGARDING RESTRICTED FLIGHT SPACES. RESTRICTIONS OVER GREECE

MUCH LESS SEVERE NOT BEING IN EFFECT EVERY DAY AND BECOMING CLEAR AT SUNSET WHICH IS THE TIME OF MISSION.

4. NASA PREPARED TO FORWARD ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION POST MAY DESIRE ON SCIENTIFIC ASPECTS OF MISSION IF THIS WOULD HELP IN OBTAINING EITHER OVERFLIGHT OR STAGING CLEARANCE.

5. NASA PERSONNEL WILL BE PREPARED TO MEET WITH EMBASSY OFFICIALS IN ATHENS AND HOST GOVERNMENT AND PRESS IF DESIRED.

6. IF STAGING POSSIBLE NASA WOULD LIKE TO AMEND INFORMATION PROVIDED REF A REGARDING OPERATING AREA. TWO ALTERNATIVES POSSIBLE: ONE AREA BOUNDED BY 36 DEGREES NORTH, 22 DEGREES EAST TO 38 DEGREES NORTH, 22 DEGREES EAST TO 39

DEGREES NORTH 17 DEGREES EAST TO 36 DEGREES NORTH, 17 DEGREES EAST AND RETURN TO STARTING POINT. ALTERNATE (WEATHER DEPENDENT) LIES BETWEEN CRETE AND MAINLAND.

7. PER REF B SINCE AIRCRAFT WOULD ARRIVE EARLIER, NASA HOPES TO BEGIN REHEARSAL FLIGHTS MARCH 11. TIME OF FLIGHTS SHIFTS SLIGHTLY EACH DAY WITH TIME OF TWILIGHT FROM APPROXIMATELY 1700Z TO 2230Z ON APRIL 4.

8. IN ABSENCE FULL STAGING (WHICH IS PREFERABLE) CAN OVERFLIGHT CLEARANCE BE OBTAINED? ALSO IN VIEW REF D IF STAGING OCCURS WOULD POST PREFER AIRCRAFT LOCATED AT CIVILIAN SIDE OF ATHENS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. (FYI: THROUGH DOD CHANNELS NASA RECEIVED TWX FROM ATHENAI AFB DATED UNCLASSIFIED

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120900Z FEB INDICATING THAT REQUIRED SUPPORT WAS AVAILABLE AS REQUESTED AND GIVING CONTACT POINTS. END FYI) KISSINGER

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